

Glow-in-the-Dark Constellations



*Make models of constellations
using glow-in-the-dark beads!*

Kit contains:

- 16 glow-in-the-dark beads
- 3 pipe cleaners
- 1 piece of contact paper
- 6 constellation cards

You will need: scissors (optional).



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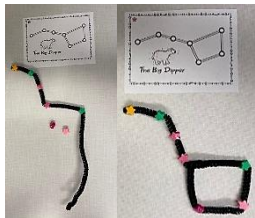
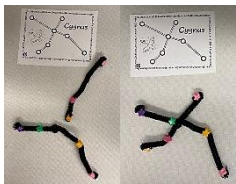
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INSTRUCTIONS

(1) Decide which constellations you want to make. You can make some and then take them apart to make other ones, or you can just choose 2 or 3.

(2) Thread the beads one-by-one onto the pipe cleaner, bending it into the shape of the constellation as you go.



(For some of the constellations, you may find it easier to cut one of the pipe cleaners).

(3) If it doesn't quite look right, it's ok! You can always start over! Scientists do that a lot.

(4) When you're done, hold your constellation up to the light for a few minutes, then go into a dark room and watch it glow! Practice identifying the constellations in the dark so you only see the stars, or have a friend or family member look at the cards and see if they can match your constellations.

Fast Facts About Constellations

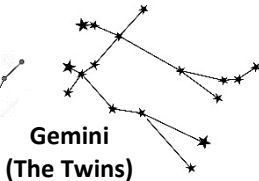
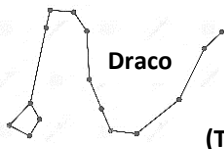
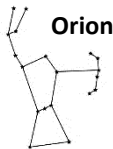
► Scientists recognize 88 constellations, or patterns made by stars. Many are constellations observed by ancient Greek astronomers.



► Cultures all over the world found patterns and told stories about the stars. Different cultures have different constellations.

► Since Earth moves through space throughout the year, different constellations can be seen at different times of the year. Many constellations can only be seen in one hemisphere. The stars we see are different than the stars someone in Australia sees!

► One of the cards you have – The Big Dipper – isn't a true constellation; it's part of a bigger constellation called The Great Bear.



Mythology of Constellations

When the ancient Greek people observed the constellations, they also told stories, or myths, about them.

- ▶ One of your card constellations – Cepheus – has a story. The myth is that Cepheus was an ancient king and when he died, the god Zeus put him in the night sky to be remembered.
- ▶ Another of your card constellations – Sagitta – was included in a myth. Sagitta was the mythical hero Hercules' special arrow. It is close to the constellation of Hercules in the sky.



Books to Learn More!



- *Seeing Stars* by Sara Gillingham
- *Constellations: A Glow-in-the-Dark Guide to the Night Sky* by Chris Sasaki
- *Find the Constellations* by H.A. Rey
- *Starry Skies* by Samantha Chagollan
- *Children's Night Sky Atlas* by Robin Scagell